

DEC 4 1956

OGC Has Reviewed

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Support)

THROUGH: General Counsel
Comptroller

SUBJECT: Early Return of Dependents from Overseas Posts.

1. In the past, this Agency has written travel orders authorizing dependents to return to the United States from overseas posts in advance of the employee, when such return was for good and sufficient reason. However, consistent with Comptroller General Opinions (29 Comp. Gen. 160, 30 Comp. Gen. 80, and B-128250 dated 14 August 1956), travel advances are not authorized except when the early return of dependents is determined to be for the convenience of the Government or the employee has completed his overseas tour of duty. In cases other than those covered by the exceptions stated above, the employee must finance the return travel of dependents from personal funds, and obtain reimbursement therefor upon completion of his overseas tour of duty.

2. It is the policy of the State Department to authorize dependents to return to the employee's designated place of residence at Government expense in advance of the employee's return, when such travel is determined to be in the best interests of the Foreign Service, and the employee has executed a repayment agreement assuring no expense to the Government should subsequent eligibility for dependent travel not occur (see Para. 125.11 of FSM). The principal factors which may be considered to justify the advance travel of dependents include: (See Para. 125.12 of FSM.)

"a. Need for medical care beyond that available at the post, any statement of such need being supported by a doctor's certificate.

"b. Medical certification that continued residence at the post would be deleterious to the health of the dependent.

"c. Death or critical illness in the immediate family of the employee or his spouse.

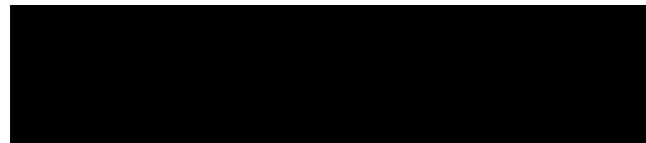
"d. Inability to adjust to extreme or unusual conditions at the post.

"e. Educational requirements of the dependents (for the equivalent of grades 1 through 8 only)."

The Comptroller General recognized the State Department practice of ordering dependents home at Government expense for humanitarian reasons, in his Opinion #B-128250 dated 14 August 1956 (Tab A).

3. It is recommended that this Agency adopt the State Department policy for return of dependents at Government expense in advance of the employee, when such return has been determined to be for "humanitarian reasons" as listed in paragraph 2 above, and a Repayment Agreement similar to that shown in Paragraph 125.18 of FPM has been executed by the employee.

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Special Support Assistant
to the
Deputy Director (Support)

Attachment: Tab A (Comp. Gen. Opinion #B-128250,
dtd. 14 Aug. 56)

CONCUR:

General Counsel

Comptroller

The recommendation in para. 3 above
is approved (disapproved):

Deputy Director (Support)

SECRET

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

Attachment